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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/620,146	07/14/2003	Eric W. Reeves	100-0001U	8492
36829	7590	10/01/2004	EXAMINER	
SCHWARTZ LAW FIRM, P.C. 6100 FAIRVIEW ROAD SUITE 530 CHARLOTTE, NC 28210			THOMPSON, HUGH B	
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		3634

DATE MAILED: 10/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/620,146	REEVES, ERIC W.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Hugh B. Thompson II	3634	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 December 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 16-35 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 16-35 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12-15-03.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 16-24, 26-28, 34, and 35 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

With respect to claim 16, the applicant has failed to provide structural relationships between the tooth and the member and clamp. Is the tooth required? Note the phrase “adapted for”.

With respect to claim 24, note that the applicant has failed to orient upper and lower surfaces of the member, i.e. relative ^{to} _a use position.

With respect to claim 26, it is unclear as to how the tooth “communicates” with the aperture. Note that the tooth has never been recited as being engaged with the aperture. Were the applicant to properly recite this relationship, the claim may be allowable.

With respect to claim 35, the preamble recites a method for securing to a beam, however, no beam has been recited in any of the method steps. Further, it is unclear as to how a clamp “slidingly disposed on the member;” results in “urging the tooth into the aperture. Correction is required. Were the applicant to properly recite these relationships, the claim may be allowable.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 16-19, 21-25, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Flora et al #5,711,397. Flora et al, as best seen in Figure 3, disclose an anchorage device 10 comprised of a hollow rectangular member 40 having apertures 42 that receive projection 64 that is secured to sliding clamp member 48, 50 through clamp apertures 54a 54b, the projection having opposed surfaces one of which is farther away from the midpoint of the member and the projection secure to the member perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the member, and second clamp 46, 100.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 20, 29-32 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim, any intervening claims, and rewritten to overcome the Section 112 ambiguities as noted above. The primary reason for the allowable subject matter of claim 20 is the inclusion of a second surface of the tooth angled away from the mid point of the member. For claim 29 it is the inclusion of a ratchet pawl attached the housing of the sleeve and a jaw attached to the sleeve. The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the claimed features absent the applicant's own disclosure.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Lycett 36,691,827, Olson et al #5,863,020, Gagnon #4,541,155, and Whitmer #4,037,824 are cited to teach clamping assemblies.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hugh B. Thompson II whose telephone number is (703) 305-0102. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 9 am to 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Cuomo can be reached on (703) 308-0827. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Hugh B. Thompson II
Hugh B. Thompson II
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3634

September 25, 2004

HUGH B. THOMPSON II
PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600